

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5159

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Transportation, February 2, 2011

Title: An act relating to transferring service credit and contributions into the Washington state patrol retirement system by members who served as commercial vehicle enforcement officers and communications officers and then became commissioned troopers in the Washington state patrol.

Brief Description: Authorizing the transfer of service credit and contributions into the Washington state patrol retirement system by members who served as commercial vehicle enforcement officers and communications officers and then became commissioned troopers in the Washington state patrol.

Sponsors: Senators Schoesler, Conway, Fain, Holmquist Newbry, Carrell, Murray, Becker, Haugen, Hobbs, Pridemore, Rockefeller, Roach, McAuliffe and Kilmer; by request of Select Committee on Pension Policy.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation: 1/26/11, 2/02/11 [DP].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Haugen, Chair; White, Vice Chair; King, Ranking Minority Member; Fain, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Delvin, Ericksen, Hill, Hobbs, Litzow, Nelson, Ranker and Swecker.

Staff: Amanda Cecil (786-7429)

Background: Noncommissioned employees of the Washington State Patrol (WSP) are part of the Public Employees Retirement System 2 (PERS 2). Commissioned Employees are part of the WSP Retirement System (WSPRS). Prior to 2000, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officers were noncommissioned employees. In 2000 all the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officers were made commissioned employees and their PERS 2 credits were transferred to the WSPRS. This transfer did not affect employees who had been Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officers and who became commission employees prior to 2000.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

WSP Communication Officers are considered noncommissioned employees. As such, retirement credits earned by Communication Officers are part of PERS 2.

Summary of Bill: Active members of WSPRS are allowed to transfer service credits earned as a Communications Officer or a Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officers in PERS 2 to WSPRS. If the employee chooses to transfer credits to the WSPRS, they must pay the difference between the employee and employer contributions that would have been paid to WSPRS, and any other amount, to ensure that the funding status of WSPRS does not change due to the transfer.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This bill will allow some employees that were overlooked in 2001 to transfer their credits into the WSPRS.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Schoesler, prime sponsor; Mike Groesch, Washington State Patrol Lieutenants Association; Davor Gjurasic, Washington State Patrol Troopers Association.